

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 SSM-03 EB-08 AID-05 OMB-01 AF-10
ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 /130 W
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FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5231
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 2920

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: UNGA, XF, EG, IS
SUBJ: EGYPTIAN VIEWS ON UNGA ACTION AGAINST ISRAEL

REF: (A) DAMASCUS 5562, (B) CAIRO 14884, (C) CAIRO 14645,
D) CAIRO 14876, (E) CAIRO 14792 NOTAL

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: EGYPTIAN POLITICAL COUNSELLOR FORESEES
DEBATE AHEAD IN NEW YORK BETWEEN ARAB MODERATES AND HARD-
LINERS OVER CONTENTS OF EGYPTIAN UNGA RESOLUTION CONDEMNING
ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS POLICY. EGYPT WILL SEEK TO CONFINE
TEXT TO THIS ISSUE WHILE SYRIA AND OTHERS MAY SEEK
STRONGER LANGUAGE -- E.G., URGING SECURITY COUNCIL TO APPLY
CHAPTER VII SANCTIONS OR CALL ON ALL STATES TO CEASE POLITICAL
AND ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO ISRAEL. EGYPTIANS REGARD US SUPPORT
FOR UNGA RESOLUTION AS ESSENTIAL AND WILL CONSULT WITH US
BEFORE PRESENTING TEXT TO NONALIGNED AND ISLAMIC FOREIGN
MINISTERS' MEETINGS. IF US CANNOT SUPPORT THE RESOLUTION,
HE NOTED, THIS WOULD CONSTITUTE SETBACK FOR ARAB MODERATES
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ALREADY UNDER PRESSURE TO TAKE STRONGER CONCERTED
ACTION AGAINST ISRAEL. END SUMMARY.

2. EGYPTIAN POLITICAL COUNSELLOR HAGGAG DISCUSSED
WITH US ON SEPTEMBER 8 EGYPTIAN PLANS FOR DEVELOPING
SUPPORT FOR THE UNGA RESOLUTION ON ISRAELI SETTLE-
MENTS IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. HE DESCRIBED

OUTCOME OF ARAB LEAGUE COUNCIL MEETING IN CAIRO IN ESSENTIALLY SAME TERMS AS REPORTED IN REF D, EMPHASIZING THAT SYRIA AND OTHER HARD-LINE STATES RELUCTANTLY WENT ALONG WITH THE EGYPTIAN PROPOSAL TO CONCENTRATE FOR THE TIME BEING ON UNGA ACTION AGAINST ISRAEL RATHER THAN SEEK STRONGER MEASURES. HAGGAG EMPHASIZED THAT EGYPT AND OTHER MODERATES WOULD BE UNDER HEAVY PRESSURE FROM ARAB HARD-LINERS TO DEMONSTRATE THAT UNGA INITIATIVE WOULD PRODUCE RESULTS IN THE FORM OF INCREASED US PRESSURE ON ISRAEL.

3. ACCORDING TO HAGGAG, THE FOLLOWING EVENTS WILL PRECEDE UNGA PLENARY CONSIDERATION OF THE EGYPTIAN RESOLUTIONS:

(A) US/EGYPTIAN CONSULTATIONS IN WASHINGTON;
(B) FAHMY/GROMYKO MEETING IN NEW YORK AROUND OPENING OF 32ND UNGA;
(C) INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS AMONG ARAB FOREIGN MINISTERS;
(E) SEPTEMBER 27 MEETING OF NONALIGNED FOREIGN MINISTERS; AND
(E) SEPTEMBER 29 MEETING OF ISLAMIC FOREIGN MINISTERS. (WE NOTE THAT REF A REPORTS THIS MEETING SCHEDULED SEPTEMBER 26 BUT SEVERAL SOURCES HERE INDICATE SEPTEMBER 29; WE WILL SEEK FURTHER CLARIFICATION.)
UNGA GENERAL DEBATE IS EXPECTED TO CONCLUDE ON OCTOBER 13. HAGGAG BELIEVES ARAB GROUP WILL DEFER TO
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AFRICAN REQUEST TO INSCRIBE NAMIBIA AS FIRST ITEM ON THE UNGA AGENDA WITH THEIR RESOLUTION ON ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS NEXT -- I.E., SOMETIME AROUND MID OR LATE OCTOBER. (THIS SCHEDULE COULD BE SET BACK FURTHER IF AFRICANS INSIST ON TAKING UP APARTHEID IMMEDIATELY AFTER NAMIBIA.)

4. HAGGAG SAID THAT EGYPT WOULD CONSULT WITH US ON DRAFT RESOLUTION BEFORE PRESENTING IT FOR CONSIDERATION BY NONALIGNED AND ISLAMIC FOREIGN MINISTERS. IN EGYPTIAN VIEW, US SUPPORT FOR UNGA RESOLUTION WAS ESSENTIAL. UNGA RESOLUTION CONDEMNING ISRAEL WITHOUT US SUPPORT WOULD BE MEANINGLESS EVEN THOUGH IT WOULD COMMAND A LARGE MAJORITY SINCE ISRAELIS WOULD BE CONCERNED ONLY WITH US POSITION. THE EGYPTIANS, HE CONFIRMED, HOPE TO KEEP THE RESOLUTION FOCUSED ON ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES WHICH US HAS ALREADY DECLARED TO BE ILLEGAL MOVES IN VIOLATION OF GENEVA CONVENTIONS.

5. HAGGAG BELIEVES DEBATE AND DISCUSSION AT NONALIGNED AND ISLAMIC FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETINGS

IS LIKELY TO INCLUDE EFFORT BY ARAB AND OTHER HARD-LINERS TO INSERT STRONGER LANGUAGE IN UNGA RESOLUTIONS -- E.G., RECOMMENDING THAT UNSC APPLY CHAPTER VII SANCTIONS AGAINST ISRAEL OR CALLING ON ALL STATES TO END POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SUPPORT OF ISRAEL. EGYPT WOULD SEEK TO RESIST SUCH EFFORTS. IF EGYPT SUCCEEDS IN OBTAINING NONALIGNED AND ISMALIC SUPPORT FOR A MODERATELY-FORMULATED RESOLUTION, HAGGAG CONTINUED, IT WOULD BE A GREAT SETBACK FOR ARAB MODERATES IF US SUBSEQUENTLY FAILED TO VOTE FOR IT IN THE UNGA.

6. HAGGAG SAID THAT THERE HAD BEEN SOME DISCUSSION AT ARAB LEAGUE MEETING OF SEEKING NEW UNSC RESOLUTIONS.
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TION TO SUPPLEMENT 242 BY RECOGNIZING PALESTINIAN RIGHTS; HOWEVER, NO DECISION AS TO WHETHER OR WHEN TO PUSH SUCH RESOLUTION HAD BEEN TAKEN. HAGGAG BELIEVED THAT FOR SUCH AN EFFORT TO HAVE ANY CHANCE OF SUCCESS, IT WOULD HAVE TO BE INTRODUCED BY A NON-ARAB DELEGATION; OTHERWISE THE ISRAELIS WOULD REJECT IT OUTRIGHT.

7. NOTE: ISRAELI UN MISSION OFFICER HAS TOLD US SEPTEMBER 8 THAT ISRAELI EMBASSIES IN EUROPE CONTINUE TO RECEIVE RUMORS ABOUT POSSIBLE ARAB MOVES IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL DURING 32ND UNGA BUT THAT HIS OWN SOUNDINGS IN NEW YORK SO FAR HAVE INDICATED THAT NO DECISION ON THIS HAS BEEN TAKEN AT THIS TIME. HE UNDERSTANDS THAT THE PALESTINE COMMITTEE INTENDS TO MEET NEXT WEEK TO CONSIDER FOLLOW-UP STEPS ON ITS REPORT.
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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